



U.S. Department of Justice

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**TWO ALLEGED ALIEN SMUGGLERS AND TWO OTHER
INDIVIDUALS INDICTED IN CONNECTION WITH AUGUST 17TH
BOAT WHICH RAN AGROUND AT PROTESTANT CAY**

Acting United States Attorney Anthony J. Jenkins announced today that a federal grand jury returned indictments on September 14, 2004, against Kevin Laville and Carter Magloire charging them with one count each of Conspiracy to Bring in Illegal Aliens, Bringing in Illegal Aliens for Financial Gain and Bringing in Illegal Aliens. The grand jury also returned separate indictments against Luis Antonio Peguero-Arias charging him with Re-entry After Deportation and Improper Entry by Alien and Hector Vazquez-Delgado charging him with Misuse of Entry Document, False Statement, False Claim to U.S. Citizenship and Improper Entry by Alien.

The indictments stem from the August 17, 2004 apprehension of approximately 32 illegal aliens aboard the motor vessel "Pearl Island" by officers of the Virgin Islands Police Department and Immigration and Customs Enforcement. The vessel departed Dominica and ran aground in the vicinity of Protestant Cay on St. Croix at about 5:00 a.m. that day. Several of the illegal aliens swam to shore in the Christiansted harbor but the vast majority

of them were captured on board the vessel. The nationality of the illegal aliens included Cubans, Haitians, Santo Domingans, two Dominicans and one Brazilian.

The Indictment alleges that the two Dominicans, Kevin Laville and Carter Magloire, were the operators of the vessel. The indictment further alleges that Luis Peguero-Arias, an illegal alien and a passenger aboard the vessel, had been previously deported from the United States. Finally, the indictment against Hector Vazquez-Delgado alleges that he presented a birth certificate issued to one Jose Rodriguez-Brea from Puerto Rico and falsely represented himself to be a United States citizen born in Puerto Rico.

Defendants Laville and Magloire faces a maximum statutory penalty of up to ten years imprisonment. Peguero-Arias faces a maximum statutory penalty of up to two years imprisonment, and Vazquez-Delgado faces a maximum statutory penalty of up to ten years imprisonment.

Attorney Jenkins thanked Roberto G. Medina, Special Agent-in-Charge, Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) and Commissioner Elton Lewis of the Virgin Islands Police Department, for their hard work in successfully investigating and bringing this case to fruition, without incident.

Attorney Jenkins emphasized that the Indictment is merely a formal charging document and that all the defendants are presumed innocent unless and until guilt is established at trial.